

Message

From: Gettle, Jeaneanne [Gettle.Jeaneanne@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/11/2021 1:42:16 AM
To: McGill, Thomas [Mcgill.Thomas@epa.gov]; Calli, Rosemary [Calli.Rosemary@epa.gov]; Laycock, Kelly [Laycock.Kelly@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Comment: 404 permitting process

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Date: January 9, 2021 at 5:31:02 PM EST
To: "Laycock, Kelly" <Laycock.Kelly@epa.gov>, "Gettle, Jeaneanne" <Gettle.Jeaneanne@epa.gov>, 404Assumption-FL <404Assumption-FL@epa.gov>
Subject: Comment: 404 permitting process

Good afternoon Ms. Gettle and Mr. Laycock,

I'm a Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP). To begin, I strongly oppose the proposition to turn over the 404 permitting process in the Everglades to the state of Florida. The people who are from the land know how to best take care of the land. For example, the Miccosukee tribe has been conducting its own research on the impacts of sea level rise on the Everglades. They have not been taken into account from the South Florida Water Management District or Army Engineering of Corp. I do not know what there is to gain by pushing the Miccosukee tribe away from the decision-making process, but it doesn't sound like the right move. Please, I know you joined the EPA because of your connection to nature, whether it's waking up and hearing the birds, a particularly starry night, or the stop in time when you're fishing. There is nothing else like our great river of grass. It's our drinking water, tourism, and treasure.

Since writing this, I did some research (three Google searches hehe). I should have done it before. The Environmental Protection Agency, which in my mind is supposed to protect the environment, or at least be a speed bump to destructive practices, has a lot to gain from giving this 404 permit to the Florida DEP. Developers, miners, and road builders. Massive housing developments over wetlands, the rock miners will get more permits to extract limestone under Florida's natural landscape, and road builders will get more permits to pave over ponds, lakes, rivers, and swamps. Who suffers because of this? South Floridians, future generations, and the Everglades itself. We all know urban sprawl is not the way to deal with our growing population. It's stupidly planned development. As for limestone mining, digging an 80 foot deep hole in the wetlands is hardly everglades restoration. Road building, sincerely I don't have a solution/alternative but we can't just keep paving over our wetlands (our water). Please consider the impacts of your decisions and think about the people who have the most to lose from destruction to the great Everglades.

Summary: Do not grant the State of Florida assumption of 404 permitting within Federal Jurisdictions, but remain with the Army Corps of Engineers as these are federal lands. Basically, don't strip the Everglades from its protections. And, formally consult with the Miccosukee Tribe. The power lies in your hands.

In solitude,

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Miami Dade College - Homestead Campus

C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

E: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

“Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.”

-Thurgood Marshall